

SECTION: CERTIFICATION

SUBJECT: Eligibility Requirement

ITEM: *Infants/Children: Nutrition Assessment Requirements--
Determining Biochemical Nutrition Need*



Policy

At each certification and as part of ongoing preventive health care services, the Competent Professional Authority (CPA) shall assess whether a biochemical nutrition need exists. However, the lack of biochemical test results does not prevent enrollment/certification if at least one qualifying nutrition risk factor is determined at the time of certification. The participant shall be required to obtain and provide blood test results within 90 days of the certification if they do not provide them at the time of certification. The CPA shall evaluate blood test results including hemoglobin or hematocrit values from the most recent health check-up at the certification or when they become available. They shall obtain the information from:

- a referral form, or
- a medical or clinical record, or
- Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) Program billing form (PM 160).

If the CPA obtains information from any source other than the referral form, the CPA shall document the source in the Integrated Statewide Information System (ISIS) in “Individual Comments.”

Blood test results must meet the following conditions regardless of the age of such data:

- 1) must conform to accepted criteria for blood test (e.g., CHDP periodicity) for infants and children, and
- 2) the date and results of the anemia screening must be recorded in ISIS.

Authority for policy 7 CFR 246.7(e) (Revised 12/16/99)

Determining need Biochemical nutrition need is determined by evaluating participants' blood test results.

**Time frame
for biochemical data for
infants**

Infants 9 months of age and older who are being certified shall have a blood test for anemia performed or obtained from a health care provider, preferably as part of a regularly scheduled health check-up, between 9 and 12 months of age. A blood test for anemia between 6 and 9 months of age can be used to meet this requirement.

All infants require a blood test for anemia between 9 and 12 months of age for the 1 year certification.

**Time frame
for biochemical data for
children**

- Blood tests performed at under 12 months of age may be used to certify a child at the first birthday recertification, but they cannot be used to certify a child thereafter. Please see Summary of Infant/Child Bloodwork Requirements, below.
 - Blood test results are required only one time for children between 12 and 24 months of age, as long as the results are within normal limits.
 - A child participant shall have blood test results at least once every 12 months. Children ages 2 and older determined to have a biochemical nutrition need require a follow-up blood test at the next certification.
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**When test
results are
not present at
certification**

For children, the blood test for anemia shall be performed or obtained from a health care provider at the time of certification or within 90 days of the date of certification. The blood test for anemia may be deferred for up to 90 days from the time of certification for applicants/participants who have at least one other qualifying nutritional risk factor present at the time of certification. When the blood test is not available at the time of certification, the local agency staff shall place a "hold" in ISIS on the family's records, and make an appropriate comment on the family comments screen until the participant's blood test results are obtained. The local agency may continue to issue food instruments according to a normal schedule (including double issuing food instruments).

Summary of infant/child bloodwork requirements	<u>CHDP Exam</u>	<u>Blood Test Results</u>	<u>WIC Certification</u>	<u>Follow-Up Blood Test</u>
	7 – 11 months	WNL	12 months	18 months
	12 – 15 months	WNL	12 months	24 months
	13 – 15 months	WNL	18 months	30 months
	Any check-up	ABN	12 months	18 months
	Any check-up	ABN	18 months	24 months

WNL: Within Normal Limits
ABN: Abnormal

Assessment and doc- umentation

Local agencies shall enter hemoglobin and/or hematocrit values into ISIS, at the appropriate “Health Information” or “Lab Results” screen. ISIS will compare the blood test results to the standards (WPM Section 210-60.3) to determine if a biochemical indicator of nutrition need exists. As with any identified nutrition risk, staff shall:

- inform the woman and/or parent/guardian of the outcome and meaning of the blood test if the results indicate anemia;
- provide follow-up nutrition education, if appropriate;
- make adjustments in the food package, as appropriate; and
- make referrals to health care or social services, as appropriate.

Local agencies providing services at altitudes greater than or equal to 2,500 feet need to refer to WPM Section 210-60.3 for bloodwork altitude adjustments.
